NEWSLETTER

Quarter 1, 2020

Welcome to GESCI's First Quarter 2020 Newsletter on ICT integration in Education and Training, activities, events, research and resources. As coordinator of the African Union's ICT integration Cluster for the Continental Education Strategy for Africa, we seek to promote catalytic and innovative approaches in this sector.

Our education response to COVID-19, consistent with our core mission, is to promote inclusive ICT approaches that best respond to the reality of learning shifting from schools and social contexts to more isolated home environments. A key piece of this will be working with schools and other groups to promote online teacher professional development, aligning open educational resources to national curricular standards and supporting the development of applications that allow for independent and autonomous learning among youth.

Our hearts go out to all those affected around the world, particularly students and teachers.

GESCI Activities

December 2019

GESCI Attends Meeting on Unleashing the Potential of Technology and Transforming Education Systems in Africa- Kigali, Rwanda
9th December 2019. GESCI was invited as an eminent member of Mastercard Foundation's Regional Centre for Innovative Teaching and Learning in ICT review of Edtech innovations for secondary education. The Centre supports entrepreneurs and feedback was provided on pitches from a sample short-listed EdTech entrepreneurs from the Center's RFP selection process. *For further information contact:* jerome.morrissey@gesci.org

January

ADSI Kenya/IEARN "Girls can Code" Initiative - Nairobi, Kenya
7th – 10th January 2020. The African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI) team, including 80 school based coordinators, were trained by iEARN on school coding which included using Arduino and Scratch technologies. The teams will train teachers in their respective schools and in turn pass it on to students. By the end of the training and school visits on monitoring progress, 800 teachers will have benefited from the training. *For further information contact: esther.wachira@gesci.org*

ADSI Teachers learn coding for student clubs – Counties, Kenya
13th – 17th January 2020. GESCI supported by iEARN Kenya conducted a three-day training on coding for teachers coordinating the ADSI Programme in 80 secondary schools four counties in Kenya. The training covered the following areas: Minecraft one hour of Code, Block based Coding Using Scratch & Exposition to Arduino Integrated Development Environment (IDE) Software for Text Based Coding. Introducing students to the coding technology will enhance 21st century Skills (critical thinking, problem-based learning, collaboration & communication). This will see coding clubs created in the schools as well as projects to be presented at the Young Scientists Kenya Annual Exhibition and the African Union Innovating Education in Africa Expo. *For further information contact: esther.wachira@gesci.org*

ADSI Programme Mid Term Review Learning Workshop- Nairobi, Kenya
21st – 22nd January,2020. During 2019, an independent review of three African focused projects by the following organizations - STIR, GESCI and EDC – was undertaken by the Education Development Trust (EDT) on behalf of Mastercard Foundation. Representatives of each NGO met to share lessons learnt and mechanisms to institutionalize the value-added products and lessons into the education system of host countries. *For further information contact: angela.arnott@gesci.org*

Ecole Numérique d'Excellence Africaine (ENEA) Programme Partners Group Meeting- Abidjan, Cotè d'Ivoire
29th January, 2020. The Ministry of National Education and Technical Training of Côte d'Ivoire, hosted **The Programme Partners Group** which met to propose strategies to sustain the programme in Côte d'Ivoire and to review the progress and experience of ENEA in 20 secondary schools in the regions of Abidjan and Yamoussoukro. PPP consists of senior Ministry officials including directors at national and regional levels, a school head representative as well as national partners, the Ivorian Teacher School Association and the national Commission for UNESCO. ENEA, the French Equivalent of ADSI is set out to implement a sustainable and replicable model of digital whole school development in secondary education which would lead to improved students' 21st century skills development, higher learning outcomes and readiness for the knowledge economy workplace. *For further information contact: sylvie.tanflotien@gesci.org*

County Education Leaders Meeting on Institutionalization - Nyamira, Kiambu, Taita Taveta, Narok-Kenya

24th January- 31st January. GESCI held a successful meeting with education stakeholders and principals from 80 secondary schools implementing the ADSI programme in Kenya. The meeting provided a platform to discuss the sustainability and scaling up aspect of the African Digital Schools programme given that it is getting into its final year of implementation under GESCI. *For further information contact: esther.wachira@gesci.org*

February

Advanced ICT training for Teachers - Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanzania

9th – 13th February 2020. GESCI in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Tanzania conducted a successful training for 400 teachers in Pwani and Morogoro regions. This is the third training conducted under the African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI) Programme since 2017. Teachers commended ADSI for helping them improve learners understanding of concepts as well as their performance in exams. *For further information contact: joyce.msolla@gesci.org*

Young Scientists Kenya (YSK) Bootcamp and Exhibition- Nairobi, Kenya

17th – 21st February 2020. Out of several projects presented in August 2019 at the Exhibition, YSK selected successful projects and conducted a 5-day business boot camp training for eligible projects. Many of the projects showcased were potential small micro enterprises which could grow to large scale industries to provide employment to the young people in the country. GESCI Country Project Manager Kenya attended the exhibition and interacted with students, the learnings have been integrated in what ADSI secondary schools are doing as they develop projects through the coding clubs created in the 80 secondary schools. *For further information contact: esther.wachira@gesci.org*

GESCI works with World Bank to develop a Digital Skills County Action Plan for Mozambique & Rwanda

17th – 27th February 2020. The World bank team and partners have facilitated a workshop with senior government officials of Mozambique and Rwanda to build a "Digital Skills Country Action Plan" for the two countries. GESCI is part of the Global Consulting Team working with World Bank to develop these Action Plans. *For further information contact: senthil.kumar@gesci.org*

Meeting with the Education Development Center (EDC)-Nairobi, Kenya

18th February,2020. GESCI obtained agreement from EDC's to use their work-readiness skills assessment tool which checks the skills of Communication, Interpersonal Skills, Dependability and Problem Solving / Critical Thinking in secondary level youth. GESCI is exploring its use in schools in Kenya, Tanzania and Cote d'Ivoire. *For further information contact: samuel.otieno@gesci.org*

GESCI participates in the RELI/KICD Teacher Education Workshop

26th-27th February ,2020. GESCI joined other members and Kenya country Leaders of the Regional Education and Learning Initiative (RELI), Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) officials and members of the Education Taskforce for a two days' workshop which brought together organizations focused on Teacher Professional Development. The purpose was to share lessons, new designs, and a series of evidence relevant to Competency-Based Curriculum. ADSI Kenya Country Manager presented GESCI's experiences from their Teacher Professional Development with a specific focus on ICT integration. The meeting also validated the new Teacher Education Curriculum Framework. *For further information contact: esther.wachira@gesci.org*

GESCI Attends TEA-LP Workshop- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

25th – 27th February, 2020. GESCI and The Pan African University Institute of Water and Energy Sciences (PAUWES) *attended the T*ransforming Energy Access-Learning Partnership (TEA-LP) Workshop which involved 7 other universities' and renewable energy teams from Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Lesotho, Ethiopia and Malawi. TEA-LP is funded by UK Aid and aims to support universities to develop multidisciplinary Master's level curricula with a view to bridging existing skills gaps in Sub-Saharan Africa's rapidly-growing renewable energy access sector. *For further information contact:* angela.arnott@gesci.org

March

Teachers trained on Knowledge Creation- Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

9th – 10th March,2020. GESCI in partnership with the Ministry of Education, and Vocational Training of Cote d'Ivoire conducted a successful training for teachers from Abidjan and Yamoussoukro regions. The trained teachers play lead in implementation of ENEA in the 20 secondary schools. Cote d'Ivoire implemented the pilot which has been running for two years. This training on the third cycle of the ENEA course was administered as part of sustainability of the concepts learnt through the project period. *For further information contact:* sylvie.tanflotien@gesci.org

Award of certificates for 200 teachers in Cote d'Ivoire - Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

11th March,2020. GESCI and the Ministry of Education convened an award ceremony to issue certificates to 200 teachers from 20 secondary participating in ENEA for having successfully completed two modules in the Knowledge Deepening cycle on ICT use in STEM teaching and learning. *For further information contact:* sylvie.tanflotien@gesci.org

Events – Past and Upcoming

January

Education World Forum- London, United Kingdom

17th – 20th January, 2020. In January each year, the Education World Forum brings together delegates representing over two-thirds of the world's population to debate future education policy. The event comprises three days of insight and inspiration from pioneers, policy makers and experts, with many sessions given by education ministers themselves as part of an honest assessment of education's common issues and challenges. The 2020 Theme was **One Generation: What does it take to transform education?** *Visit:* https://www.theewf.org/

March

6th African Council for Distance Education (ACDE) Conference - Accra, Ghana

24th – 27th March 2020. The ACDE, Associations for African Universities and the Laweh Open University in Ghana hosted the 2020 education conference focusing on "Open and Distance Learning, the Continental education Strategy for Africa and SDG4: Quality Education. *For further information contact:* acdeconference2020@gmail.com

2nd International Conference on New Approaches in Education- Oxford, UK

27 - 29 March, 2020. This conference brought together researchers, scientists and scholar students to exchange and share their experiences, new ideas, and research results about all aspects of Education discuss the practical challenges encountered and the solutions adopted. *Visit:*https://www.icnaeducation.org/education-conference/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAoIPvBRDgARIsAHsCw0_HAkibug9bimg3W3E32eTfkFUhxgf3ak W7uzcbnK3mDgnHdwh1iCkaAuGVEALw_wcB

Women in Tech Conference 2020- Cape Town, South Africa

18th- 19th March, 2020. This event is Africa's biggest celebration of the successes and innovations being engineered by women from across the tech sector. Participants got inspired by the vibrant and talented African women in the tech community, liaised with top tech companies, enhanced their skills portfolio and celebrated the diversity in all forms within the technology industry. *Visit: https://www.women-in-tech-africa-summit.com/*

April

Education Conference 2020- Bangkok, Thailand

03rd - 05th April 2020. The 6th International Conference on Education – (ICEDU 2020) is organized by The International Institute of Knowledge Management (TIIKM).The aim of the conference is to bring together researchers, practitioners, and policy-makers to discuss issues, tackle challenges, develop professionally, share opinions, find solutions and explore opportunities in the areas of education. The conference serves the purpose of promoting a tight link between theory and practice and explores different perspectives on the application of research findings into practice.
*Visit:*https://educationconference.co/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAoIPvBRDgARIsAHsCw09uJgw5dbY0Q CCsmxMyyppvZfqTMfDkiFCOw3M-WH9ZYjw9t2TcKRUaArnEEALw_wcB

Global Education Conference - Washington D.C, USA

6th -10th April 2020. With the theme *"Education Today, Opportunity tomorrow"* this event will provide a unique opportunity to gather with individuals from across the international education sector, including representatives from USAID, other U.S. government departments and agencies, implementing partners, the private sector, and partner country governments. The theme is The journey to self-reliance, Effective collaboration and coordination, Evidence-based decision making, Systems strengthening. *visit:* www.edu-links.org/events/usaid-2020-global-education-conference

May

International Conference on Computer Supported Education - Prague, Czech Republic

*2nd - 4th May, 2020.*The International Conference on Computer Supported Education (CSEDU 2020), is a yearly meeting place for presenting and discussing new educational tools and environments, best practices and case studies on innovative technology-based learning strategies, and institutional policies on computer supported education including open and distance education. This conference will provide an overview of current technologies as well as upcoming trends, and promote discussion about the pedagogical potential of new educational technologies in the academic and corporate world. CSEDU seeks papers and posters describing educational technology research; academic or business case-studies; or advanced prototypes, systems, tools, and techniques.
Visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/12th-international-conference-on-computer-supported-education-ins-as-tickets-72179503839

African Curriculum Association (ACA) Conference- Banjul, The Gambia

27th – 30th May 2020. ACA, in collaboration with the Curriculum Research, Evaluation and Development Directorates (CREDD) of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE) The Gambia, and the Curriculum Cluster at African Union will host the ACA

Conference. The subthemes are under the following areas *a.) The school curriculum b.) Teacher Education and Training and c.) Learning assessment. Visit:* **www.acuass.org**

August

Innovating Education in Africa Expo 2020 - Kigali, Rwanda
19th -21st August 2020 **.** The Innovating Education in Africa Expo was established in 2018 to recognize and celebrate promising education innovations across the continent which have great potential for improving access and impact of education. This year, forty (40) Innovations, which leverage opportunities to reach the unreached with quality education and training will be selected and exhibited from 19-21 August 2020 in Kigali, Rwanda. All potential attendees of the Expo and Innovators who wish to participate in the Call for Innovations when it is published, subscribe here: https://edu-au.org/list

Education Development News

Global

21st century skills: What potential role for the Global Partnership for Education?
This report considers the role that the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) could take in supporting partner countries in embedding 21st-century skills or equivalent within their education systems. The report's recommendations consider the different levers that GPE can use as well as the core principles underlying GPE's work, including evidence-based policy dialogue, country ownership, harmonization and aid alignment, and the promotion of mutual accountability. *Visit: https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/21st-century-skills-what-potential-role-global-partnership-education*

Launch of the UNESCO Dynamic Coalition for Open Education Resources (OER)
As the first major step since Member States adopted the UNESCO Open Education Resources (OER) Recommendation in November 2019, UNESCO launched the OER Dynamic Coalition took place online in March 2020 Monday.In response to the Covid-19 crisis, the meeting, which was foreseen originally to take place at UNESCO Headquarters was quickly adapted to an online format and launched as foreseen for a month of consultation. *Visit:* https://en.unesco.org/news/launch-unesco-dynamic-coalition-open-education-resources-oer?utm_source=UNESCO&utm_campaign=c4c040f065-RSS_CI_weekly_headlines&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_898ed31396-c4c040f065-442585047&ct=t(RSS_CI_weekly_headlines)&mc_cid=c4c040f065&mc_eid=7f0b32beda

Global Partnership for Education (GPE) announces US$250 million for developing countries battling COVID-19 (Coronavirus)
GPE will provide US$250 million to help developing countries mitigate both the immediate and long-term disruptions to education being caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will help sustain learning for up to 355 million children, with a focus on ensuring that girls and poor children, who will be hit the hardest by school closures, can continue their education. **67 countries eligible for COVID-19 funding**: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Republic of), Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the

Grenadines, Sudan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe. *Visit:* https://www.globalpartnership.org/news/global-partnership-education-announces-us250-million-developing-countries-battling-covid-19

Africa

Countries

Kenya
Launch of SEQIP Reaching 9000 Students
A scholarship programme to benefit 9,000 candidates who sat Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examinations in 2019 was launched. The joint venture between the Government and the World Bank dubbed the Secondary Quality Education Project (SEQIP), will complement other ongoing initiatives. The SEQIP project will cost Sh20 billion with the Elimu Scholarship costing Sh3 billion and a further Sh8.2 billion going to construction of classrooms and laboratories to aid in the ongoing 100 per cent transition dream. *Visit:* https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001351448/hope-for-over-9-000-students-in-sh20b-scholarship-project

Online Learning during the Covid19 Pandemic
Longhorn Publishers and the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development have launched various resources to be accessed by students via cloud,Youtube, Radio and TV platforms as a way to keep learning ongoing during the pandemic.
KICD: https://kec.ac.ke/
Longhorn: https://elearning.longhornpublishers.com/

South Africa
Online Teaching Initiative-COVID19 Response
WorksheetCloud, together with MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet, decided to sponsor and fund an online teaching initiative. Dubbed, the WorksheetCloud, the initiative gives live school lessons to ALL learners for free in South Africa during the national lockdown.The first launch done is for Grades 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Teachers will be covering lessons in Mathematics, English and Natural Science. More grades will follow. Visit: https://www.worksheetcloud.com/live/

Vacancies, Awards and other opportunities

Google launches first Developer Space in African Continent for Entrepreneurs, Developers, Mentors, and Investors
Google has launched its first Google Developers Space in Lagos, Nigeria where entrepreneurs, developers, mentors, and investors can connect and collaborate. Google Developers Space will house the Google Launchpad Accelerator programme support developer meetups, and empower people through digital skills training. This hub provides the African tech community with access to Google's resources, programs, facilities, mentors, infrastructure, coaching, investors and support for business. *Visit:* *https://news.fundsforngos.org/africa/google-launches-first-developer-space-in-african-continent-for-entrepreneurs-developers-mentors-and-investors/*

Engineering for Change Fellowship
Engineering for Change (E4C) is a knowledge organization specialized in Engineering for Global Development with a global community of 1,000,000+ that believes engineering can

change the world. E4C's mission is to prepare, educate and activate the international engineering workforce to improve the quality of life of underserved communities around the world. The E4C Research Fellowship is *a workforce development program in social innovation serving to build engineering capacity and prepare local talent to solve local and global challenges and create knowledge as a public good. For further Information Contact:* marilynn@engineeringforchange.org

The Geneva Challenge – Advancing Development Goals Contest

Theme: "The Challenges of Social Inclusion" Applications are now open for the seventh edition of the Advancing Development Goals International Contest for Graduate Students which aims to present innovative and pragmatic solutions to address the challenges of social inclusion. While significant advances have been made in reducing extreme poverty around the world, many more efforts are needed to tackle social inclusiveness. This year, Geneva challenge will distribute five prizes, one per continent. The five finalist teams will be invited to Geneva for their project showcases and the award ceremony end of September 2020. *Visit:* https://opportunitydesk.org/2020/01/08/the-geneva-challenge-2020/

The Zayed Sustainability Prize

The submissions process for the 2021 edition of the Zayed Sustainability Prize is now open. The Prize fund comes from the Abu Dhabi Government as a way to honor and continue the sustainability and humanitarian legacy of the founding father of the United Arab Emirates, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. Submissions are open until 21 May 2020 6:00PM EST. *Visit: https://zayedsustainabilityprize.com/en/apply/how-to-apply*

Applications Open for Facebook's Community Accelerator Program

Facebook is seeking applications for its Community Accelerator program to equip impactful communities with the training mentorship and funds to grow. The Community Accelerator is an evolution of fellowship program, which in 2019 supported 115 participating leaders worldwide. Together, those leaders reported that their projects impacted over 1.9 million lives through online community support, the use of helpful resources, and other activities made possible by the program. ***Deadline: 10th April, 2020*** *Visit:* https://www2.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/submit-applications-for-facebooks-community-accelerator-program/

Networking and Resources

The Partnership for Skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET)

This is a regional initiative led by African governments and facilitated by the World Bank. The partnership brings together African governments, local private sector, and donors to revitalize higher education (including research) and TVET institutions and programs, with a focus on developing excellence in science and technology competences for key sectors, thus driving transformation of the African continent. PASET undertakes activities on three fronts in higher education and TVET: incubating and operationalizing regional initiatives, technical assistance and knowledge sharing. Key operational initiatives of PASET include the Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF) which is a pan-African Science Fund, seeded by African governments to raise the quality of Ph.D training and applied demand-driven research in competitively selected SSA universities through partnership with international universities; and the Regional Flagship TVET Institutes which are networked centers for training high quality technicians meeting international certification standards for regional infrastructure and regional integration projects. As part of its technical assistance, PASET

launched a Regional Benchmarking of Universities that uses a standardized methodology. *Visit:* https://www.rsif-paset.org/

The Digital Economy for Africa (DE4A)
This is a continent-wide initiative of the World Bank that aims to support African countries to build a robust and conducive environment for the digital economy. Digital Skills are considered one of the five foundational pillars of DE4A as they enable the spread and adoption of digital technologies across many sectors, and because they can drive future innovations adapted to local African contexts. The World Bank has committed to investing US$25 billion into the DE4A initiative by 2030 and has additionally started financing a number of country level and regional projects. further information available at
 https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2019/04/22/5th-paset-forum).

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA)
This is an international organization chaired by Ban Ki-moon that acts as a solutions broker, bringing together governments, the private sector, civil society, intergovernmental bodies, and knowledge institutions that can address the obstacles slowing down adaptation action. Throughout 2019, youth NGOs developed youth background paper on Adaptation called "Adapt for Our Future" - commissioned by GCA, that fed into the first *Flagship Report on Adaptation*. As a part of these efforts, several on-ground consultations were held and launch of the Paper took place during the GA week in September 2019. *Visit : https://gca.org/young-leaders-program*

FAWE's Strategic Plan 2019-2023
FAWE has launched its new strategic plan 2019 – 2023 at the Committee of Ten (C10) on Education Science and Technology ordinary meeting at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.   English: http://fawe.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/FAWE-Strategic-Plan-2019-2023-Full-Version-Final_English.pdf   French: http://fawe.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Plan-Strat%C3%A9gique-du-FAWE_-2019-2023.pdf

Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme 2020 Call for Proposals from HEIs
The Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme is a collaborative initiative under the Joint AU-EU Strategy for Higher Education. The Scheme is managed by the Executive Agency of the European Commission in collaboration with African Union Commission. The overall objective of the programme is to enhance human capital development in Africa, while strengthening intra-African collaboration as called for by Agenda 2063.The 2020 Call for Proposal of Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme is launched with a deadline of 19 May 2020. The Call is open to higher education institutions from Africa. The total budget under this Call is about EUR 9,800,000. *Visit:* https://edu-au.org/opportunities/intra-africa-academic-mobility-scheme-2020-call-for-proposals-from-heis

---

GESCI's African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI) is funded by Mastercard Foundation, Canada.